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" (*d*) When the godowns are relinquished by the Food Department."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I know, Sir, whether in view of the fact that there is much wastage due to carting of the materials from one place to another, Government would consider the desirability of removing the stores to the City of Madras."

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR :— " The Government have considered and are considering the question ; but the difficulty is that they are not able to get back the godowns themselves."

Alleged damage caused to the Stationery in the Government Stationery Stores.

* 70 *Q.*—SRI P. R. K. SARMA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any stationery were damaged in the Government Stationery Stores in the present premises at Guindy by white-ants and rains, and if so, what the articles and the approximate loss are; and

(*b*) whether any action has been taken in connection with the damage and loss?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR :— " (*a*) & (*b*) The following articles were damaged by white ants and rains :—

Description of articles.	Quantity.	Value. RS.	A.	P.
By white ants—				
(i) Semi-bleached DF 18½ lbs. paper (Sirpur).	**Reams** 2—0	15	12	0
(ii) White cartridge royal 60 lbs. (Sirpur).	**„** 0–204	15	9	0
(iii) Exercise Note-Books of 64 pages.	**Nos.** 325	45	11	3
By rains—				
(iv) Blotting paper	**Sheets** 250 }			
Stencil paper	**„** 119 }	29	0	0

" The cost of the articles was written off by the Superintendent of Stationery.

" Items (i) and (iii) were used in the packing section for packing purposes.

" Item (ii) was sent to the Superintendent, Government Press, Madras, for being cut into Ration cards size and used to the best advantage possible.

" Item (iv) These papers though drenched were dried in the sun and made fit for use."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that all this wastage was brought to the notice of Government by the workers' union concerned? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR :— "I am obliged to the union."

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MR. PRESIDENT :—" Is the answer to the short notice question ready or may it be taken up to-morrow? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—" I am not sure if it will be ready to-morrow. We might have it day after to-morrow if you please, Sir."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Yes."

[*Note*.—**An asterisk (*) at the commncement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE HON. THE PRESIDENT.

* MR. PRESIDENT :—" I have to announce that the following message, dated Fort St. George, the 10th September 1946, has been received from the Hon. the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly :—

'In accordance with rule 94 of the Madras Assembly Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Bill, 1946 (L.A. Bill No. 2 of 1949), as passed by the Assembly on the 10th September 1946 and signed by me for the concurrence of the Council'."

GOVERNMENT BILL.

III.—THE MADRAS TENANTS AND RYOTS PROTECTION BILL, 1946, AS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH :—" Mr. President, I move—

'*that the Madras Tenants and Ryots Protection Bill*, 1946, *as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration*.'

" In making this motion, I shall briefly explain the objects and scope of the Bill. Hon. Members are aware that a Committee was appointed by the Congress Government in 1938 regarding the Estates Land Act. It went exhaustively into the question of tenures and the condition of tenants in estates and made its report. Similarly for the district of Malabar a Committee called Kuttikrishna Menon Committee was appointed by the Congress Government and that Committee examined the question of tenancy in Malabar and made a report. There are two reports on these questions. With regard to the latter report, the Adviser Government have kept it aside on account of the war and after this Government came into office, the Board of Revenue has been asked to go through its recommendations and then to report upon them. A special officer is also going into them. Pending consideration of these matters, it has now been brought to the notice of Government that a large number of suits and eviction proceedings are pending in the areas covered by these two reports. A large number of tenants are likely to be evicted in case a stay legislation of this kind is not brought in. This legislation is brought in so that necessary relief may be granted before the main legislation on both these questions are brought in. I understand that in the district of Malabar, there are pending about 9,000 suits involving eviction of which 5,000 are in North Malabar and 4,000 in South Malabar. Apart from these there are execution and other proceedings pending. Generally, this will be the position with regard to the Estates Land Act areas also.